REMARKS

Re-examination and allowance of the present application is respectfully requested.

Initially, Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 10, 13 and 16 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but that they would be allowable if they are amended to be placed into independent form. By the current amendment, Applicants revise claims 10, 13 and 16 to place them in independent form, including substantially all the limitations of their respective independent and intervening claims. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 10, 13 and 16 are in condition for allowance, and respectfully requests such an indication from the Examiner.

Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's 35 U.S.C. §102(a) rejection of claims 11, 12, 14 and 15 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,875,039 to OHSAWA et al. According to a feature of the present invention, described at, for example, page 14, line 19 - page 15, line 11, and illustrated in Fig. 3 of Applicant's specification, all of the 8x8 orthogonal transformation coefficients in the second matrix MD are subjected to an inverse orthogonal transformation to expand image data arranged in the third matrix M3 comprised of 64x64 pixel values, the number of pixels in the third matrix being greater than the number of pixels in the second matrix. Applicant submits that at least this feature differs from the applied art of record.

Applicant submits that OHSAWA teaches that discrete cosine transformation coefficients are extracted based on a set enlargement/reduction ratio. See, for example, column 8, lines 13-26 and claim 1, paragraph 3 (e.g., extracting step) of OHSAWA. The extracted discrete cosine transformation coefficients are then decoded and subjected to an inverse discrete cosine transformation. However, in OHSAWA, only a part of the extracted discrete cosine transformation coefficients are subjected to the inverse discrete cosine transformation. Thus, OHSAWA fails to disclose or suggest processing all of the orthogonal transformation coefficients to generate expanded image data.

By the current amendment, Applicant amends claims 11 and 14 to more clearly specify that an inverse orthogonal transformation is applied to all of the orthogonal transformation coefficients. As at least this feature is lacking from OHSAWA, Applicant submits that the ground for the rejection of claims 11, 12, 14 and 15 no longer exists. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the 35 U.S.C. §102(a) rejection of claims 11, 12, 14 and 15.

Applicant further respectfully traverses the Examiner's 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of claims 1-9 as being obvious over OHSAWA in view of U.S. Patent 6,424,974 to TAKAHASHI et al., or U.S. Patent 5,159,468 to YOSHIDA et al.

As discussed above, according to a feature of the instant invention, the expanded image generating processor applies an inverse orthogonal transformation to all of the

orthogonal transformation coefficients to be processed, and that this is lacking from OHSAWA. Applicant submits that neither TAKAHASHI nor YOSHIDA disclose or suggest this feature. For example, TAKAHASHI discloses that scaling (e.g., expansion) may be performed using interpolation (see, column 9, lines 37-39), while YOSHIDA is silent with respect to enlarging (expanding). Thus, Applicant submits that even if one attempted to combine the teachings of the various references in the manner suggested by the Examiner, one would still fail to arrive at the instant invention, in which an inverse orthogonal transformation is applied to all of the orthogonal transformation coefficients to obtain expanded image data.

In view of the above, Applicant submits that the ground for the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection no longer exists, and respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw this ground of rejection and indicate the allowability of the pending claims.

Pursuant to M.P.E.P. §714.13, Applicant contends that entry of the present amendment is appropriate because the proposed amended claims avoid the rejections set forth in the last Office Action, resulting in the application being placed in condition for allowance, or, alternatively, the revised claims place the application in better condition for purposes of appeal. Further, the revised claims do not present any new issues that would require any further consideration or search by the Examiner (the inverse orthogonal transformation being discussed in the last response), and no additional claims are presented

12

for the Examiner's consideration. Accordingly, entry of the present amendment is respectfully requested.
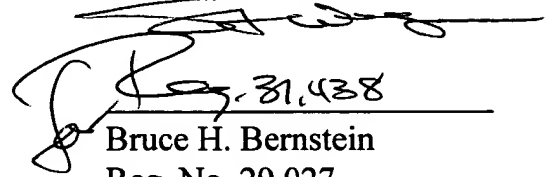
SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

In view of the fact that none of the art of record, whether considered alone or in combination, discloses or suggests the present invention as now defined by the pending claims, and in further view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the Examiner's action and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested and are believed to be appropriate.

Any amendments to the claims which have been made in this amendment, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Should the Commissioner determine that an extension of time is required in order to render this response timely and/or complete, a formal request for an extension of time, under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a), is herewith made in an amount equal to the time period required to render this response timely and/or complete. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any required extension of time fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17 to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

13

If there should be any questions concerning this application, the Examiner is invited

to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,
Nobuaki ABE

Bruce H. Bernstein
Reg. No. 29,027

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GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.
1950 Roland Clarke Place
Reston, VA 20191
(703) 716-1191